

# California Postsecondary Education Commission

## Improving Teacher Quality State Grants Program

### Project Description

Project Title	Mathematics and English Language Development (MELD)		
Grant Amount: \$971,371	Grant Period: 1 Oct. 2007-30 Sept. 2011		
Grade Level: K-2	Subject Matter: Mathematics		
Institute of Higher Education	<input type="checkbox"/> San Diego State University Imperial Valley Campus		
Local Education Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Calexico Unified School District		
Additional Partners:	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Need for Project/ Population To Be Served:	<p>Calexico Unified School District (CUSD) serves students living on the US Mexico border in Imperial County, CA. The district is designated as a high needs district because over 25 percent of students, ages 5 to 17, come from families living in poverty. Every student in the district receives free lunch, and 84 percent of CUSD students are English Language Learners. MELD works with 100 K-2 Calexico teachers reaching nearly 2,000 students in seven elementary schools. All schools are currently designated Program Improvement except one which is a new school in its first year.</p>		
Project Goals:	<p>The overall goal of MELD is to increase student performance in mathematics and English language acquisition at the K-2 level. Specifically, through MELD professional development K-2 teachers will gain strategies and knowledge relevant to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) How children learn mathematics and how to build instruction based on student thinking by using the research based pedagogy of Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI)</li> <li>2) How to differentiate mathematics instruction for special needs students and how to differentiate the language of instruction for English Learners.</li> <li>3) How to support instructional change through professional learning communities.</li> </ol>		
Summary of Activities:	<p>Teachers advance through 120 hours of staff development in the form of Institutes and follow up activities. Institutes are offered in Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI), MELD, and Mathematical Thinking. CGI helps teachers learn to recognize and use student thinking to guide instruction. Mathematical Thinking centers on helping K-2 teachers set good foundations for Algebra with such concepts as meaning of the equal sign and making mathematical conjectures and justifications. MELD staff development focuses on advanced CGI techniques combined with English Language Development strategies to make word problem solving accessible to English Learners. Each Institute is followed up with Theory Into Practice (TIP) Sessions held monthly throughout the school year. TIP uses modified lesson study during the course of the day to help teachers practice and implement the tenets of MELD and create supportive learning communities.</p>		
Outcomes Expected:	<p>The central outcome of MELD is to increase student performance in mathematics for K-2 students. The achievement gains made during the primary years as a result of MELD staff development will provide a strong conceptual base which will support and sustain continued mathematical achievement in subsequent years. The project will provide a model of how English and mathematics can be integrated into a single lesson and how that lesson can be differentiated to accommodate diverse learners. Ancillary outcomes of the project will include: a cadre of highly trained K-2 teachers able to sustain quality mathematics instruction, and assessment instruments to measure student learning in problem solving in the primary grades.</p>		
Teachers Served	100	Students Served	2,000
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